

Getting It Together

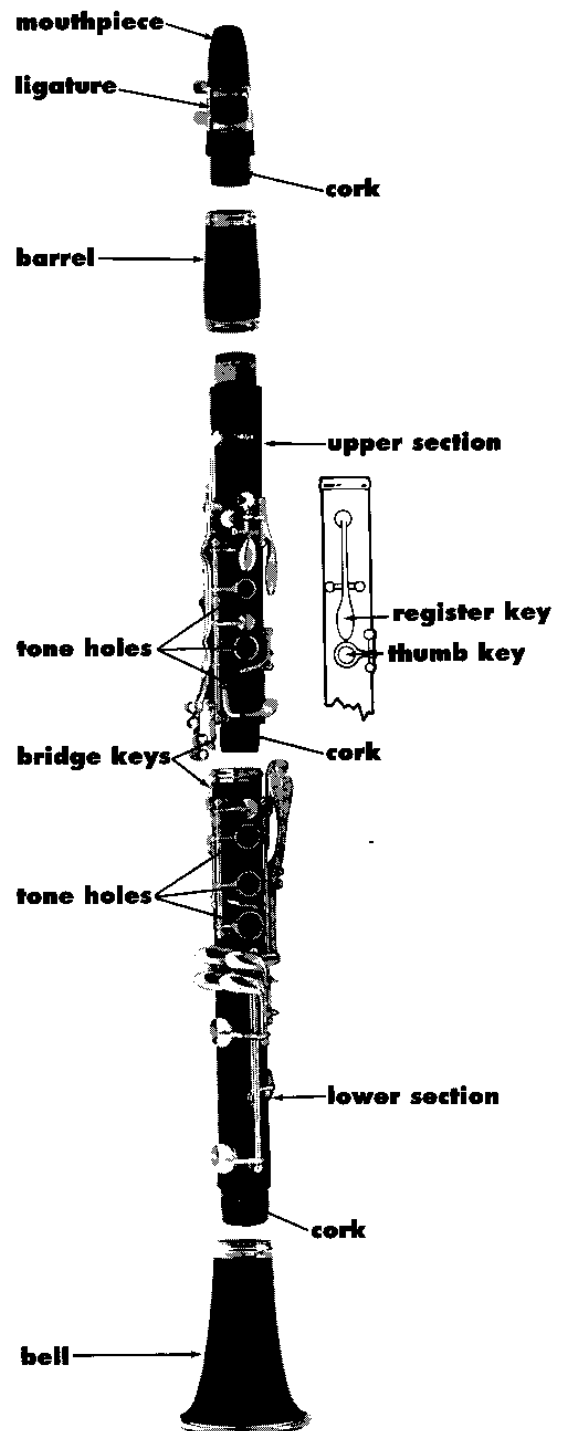
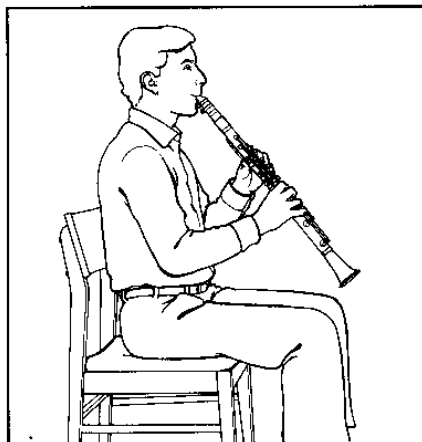
Step 1 - Carefully put the thin end of the reed in your mouth to moisten thoroughly. Rub a small amount of cork grease on all corks, if needed. Clean hands.

Step 2 - Hold the upper section in your left hand. Press your fingers on the rings over the tone holes. Grasp the lower section with your right hand. Press your fingers over the tone holes. Gently twist upper and lower sections together. The upper section's bridge key must be directly over the lower section's bridge key.

Step 3 - Twist the bell onto the cork of the lower section. Place the wider part of the barrel on the cork of the upper section.

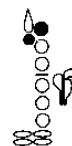
Step 4 - Put the mouthpiece into the barrel. The flat section of the mouthpiece, register key and thumb rest should all form a straight line. Put your reed on the mouthpiece (see page 2).

Step 5 - Put your right thumb under the thumb rest. Place your left thumb across the thumb key. Your fingers should curve naturally. Use the fleshy part of your fingers to cover the tone holes. Hold the clarinet as shown:



Let's Play!

This special exercise is just for B \flat Clarinetists. Place your fingers on the keys as shown: Form the embouchure, take a deep breath and whisper "tah" to play E. Try this exercise several times.



"tah"



REST

"tah"



REST

THE BASICS

Posture

Sit on the edge of your chair and always keep your:

- Spine straight and tall
- Shoulders back and relaxed
- Feet flat on the floor

Breathing & Air Stream

Breathing is a natural thing we all do constantly. To discover the correct air stream to play your instrument:

- Place the palm of your hand near your mouth.
- Inhale deeply through the corners of your mouth, keeping your shoulders steady. Your waist should expand like a balloon.
- Slowly whisper “tah” as you gradually exhale air into your palm.

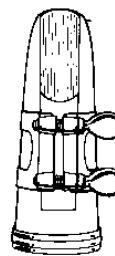
The air you feel is the air stream. It produces sound through the instrument. Your tongue is like a faucet or valve in that it releases the air stream.

Producing The Essential Tone

Embouchure (*ahm'-bah-shure*) is your mouth's position on the mouthpiece of the instrument. A good embouchure takes time and effort, so carefully follow these steps for success:

REED PLACEMENT

- Carefully put the thin end of the reed in your mouth to moisten thoroughly.
- Position the ligature with the screws on the flat side of the mouthpiece.
- Move the ligature up with your thumb. Place the flat side of the reed against the mouthpiece under the ligature. Lower the ligature.
- Center the reed making sure that only a hairline of the mouthpiece can be seen above the reed, as shown:
- Gently tighten the ligature screws.

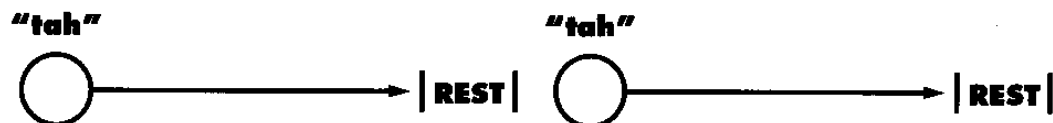


EMBOUCHURE

- Roll your lower lip over bottom teeth. Moisten your lips.
- Form a slightly puckered smile to firm the corners of your mouth.
- Relax your jaw. Your chin should feel stretched downward.
- Center the mouthpiece on your lips and put it in your mouth about 1/2 inch.
- Place your upper teeth directly on the mouthpiece. The reed rests on the lower lip over the teeth.
- Close your mouth around the mouthpiece, keeping the corners of the mouth and the chin firm.

Mouthpiece Work-Outs


Carefully form the embouchure around your mouthpiece and take a deep breath. Whisper “tah” and gradually exhale your full air stream. Your work-out looks like this:



Beat • The Pulse of Music

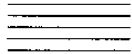
One beat = tap foot down on the number and up on the "&." Count and tap when playing or resting.

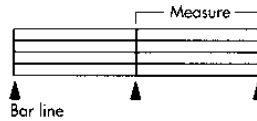
Count 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &
Tap ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑

Fermata  Hold the note longer, or until your director tells you to release it.

Staff, Bar Lines & Measures

Bar lines divide the music staff into measures. The measures on this page have four beats each.



 = Music Staff




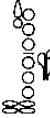
Notes & Rests

Notes tell us how high or low to play *and* how long to play. Notes are placed on a line or space of the music staff.

Rests tell us to count silent beats.

 Quarter Note = 1 Beat
 Quarter Rest = 1 Silent Beat

1. COUNT AND PLAY

G   Play

Count 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &
Tap ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓

2. A NEW NOTE

F  


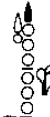
1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &
↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓

3. TWO'S A TEAM



1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &
↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓

4. THE NEXT NOTE

A  


1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &
↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓

5. DOWN AND UP




1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &
↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓

6. ROLLING ALONG



1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &



1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

Go to next line. ▼